



September 2016 JUMP Newsletter



Welcome to *JUMP*, the OPI MontCAS online assessment newsletter. *JUMP* is published several times during the year to announce important assessment and data events. It provides up-to-date information necessary for the administration of statewide assessments and the accompanying data collections.

Smarter Balanced

TIDE Users

- Systems and schools were advised to update TIDE users starting August 26. The original end date for the window was September 16; however on Tuesday, September 13, OPI and Measured Progress received word from AIR that TIDE is down for reconfiguration starting Tuesday, September 13 until it reopens on Monday, September 19.

NOTE: OPI sent an email to all superintendents and System Test Coordinators about the reconfiguration on September 13.

- On September 19, all previous and new TIDE users will receive email notification to refresh their passwords.
 - Systems and schools that have not completed updating TIDE users may begin the process after September 19. Link to the Quick Start Guide: http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/SMART/TIDE_QuickStart_Guide2016-17.pdf
 - Please alert all users not to ignore the email regarding new passwords and, if they don't receive an email to check their Junk or Spam folders.
 - For password problems, please contact the Measured Progress Montana Help Desk directly: montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org

The Interim Assessments are one component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System.

The optional interim assessments will be available on demand by Montana accredited schools at no cost to the schools by late October 2016 and are designed to support teaching and learning throughout the year.

- **The Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)** focus on small sets of related concepts and provide detailed information for instructional purposes.
- **The Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)** test the same content as the end of the year assessment. These include performance tasks which are hand-scored locally using the Teacher Hand Scoring (THSS) system. A score for the ICAs is not reported until the score for the locally hand-scored performance task is recorded.



- For both the IABs and ICAs, all items except the performance tasks will be scored electronically. The performance tasks will be hand-scored locally.
- Interim steps and information
 1. OPI provides current student rosters for each school and grade to Measured Progress. They are loaded into TIDE and will be updated regularly.
 2. Districts and schools install the 2016-17 secure browser (version 9). Secure browsers will be updated annually. Link to the 2016-17 Quick Start Guide:
http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/16_17SecureBrowserInstallationManual.pdf
 3. Recommended sequence of use
 - a. IABs except performance tasks
 - b. IAB performance tasks—after hand scoring training
 - c. ICAs—after hand scoring training
 4. Click here for the Smarter Interim Assessment Blocks Fact Sheet.
<http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/InterimAssessmentBlocksOverview.pdf>

Reminder: Smarter Balanced Paper Reports will be shipped to the System Test Coordinators in late September and should be distributed within two weeks.

ACT

Reminder about student reports with college/scholarship reportable scores:

- Students received their paper reports by mail 3-9 weeks after they took the test.
- Schools received student paper reports 3-9 weeks after students took the test. These reports were intended for school files and counselors.
- Schools received another shipment of student reports no later than August 22. These are intended for parent/guardians and should be distributed by the end of September.

ACT Online Prep (AOP)

- Because of a Gear Up grant, the newest version of AOP will be available in late October for public schools to offer their juniors at no charge to the schools or the students.
- Information and a Quick Start Guide are in progress by both ACT and OPI.



MSAA (Multi State Alternate Assessment)

The window to log in to the MSAA system and download reports for the 2015-2016 Administration closed on Friday September 16, 2016.

- Reports included district and school summaries, school rosters, and individual student reports.
- Schools printed the student reports and should have a plan to distribute them by October 3, 2016.
- No MSAA student reports will be mailed to the schools.

ELP (English Language Proficiency): Access for ELLS Training and Webinars

- An ELP Kickoff and other ELP webinars will be available on the OPI Learning HUB. The schedule and direct links are on the MontCAS/ELP/ Training site; below is the link:
http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/index.html?gpm=1_6 **Click on Training**
- A comprehensive schedule of ACCESS for ELLs webinars and Q/A sessions is also posted. This is the direct link:
http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/ELP/16ACCESS_WebinarCalendar.pdf

NOTE: The time listed on the schedule is CT, Central Time. Montana is an hour earlier.

MontCAS Contact Information

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MontCAS Website: <http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/>